

A direct-drive actuator assembly actuates a tarp spool for a truck bed tarp system. The direct-drive actuator assembly includes a transmission housing adapted for mounting to the tarp housing. An output shaft extends from the transmission housing for driving the tarp spool. An input shaft is also positioned at least partially within the transmission housing. An electric motor is operatively connected to the input shaft for actuating the tarp spool. A brake is operatively connected to the electric motor for automatically braking the motor when the electric motor is turned off. A cover is provided for enclosing the stacked brake and electric motor against the transmission housing.

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